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SECURITY INFORMATION

Subject
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Chief of Administration, DD/P OGC Has Reviewed 1 December 1952

General Counsel

Representation Allowance for Senior War Planner, Europe

1. The memorandum from Chief, Paramilitary Operations, to DD/P of 26 November requests a representation allowance for the Senior War Planner, Europe, for entertainment of United States officials exclusively.

2. The history of entertainment at Government expense is long and the areas have become well defined. The propriety of entertaining non-United States officials, particularly foreign officials, at Government expense has long been recognized. Similarly, entertainment of United States officials at Government expense has long been barred by the Comptroller General. The theory is that a certain amount of entertainment and representation is necessary as an additional persuasion to foreign officials to assist this Government; while it is considered as being part of the duties of any United States official to help other United States officials in the performance of their official business so that additional inducement is unwarranted.

3. In a recent example, Atomic Energy Commission at one of its field stations paid for entertainment of the many Congressmen who visited there on inspection trips. The Comptroller forbade the use of Government funds for this purpose unless Congress were specifically to authorize such entertainment. To our knowledge, Congress has never passed such an authorization.

4. Consequently, in accepted Government theory, the allowance requested by Chief, Paramilitary Operations would not be necessary any more than such entertainment should be necessary between ourselves and our counterparts in Government here in Washington. If, of course, there are circumstances arising out of the peculiar needs of this Agency which put us in a different situation from that of other agencies, there may be a proper basis for authorizing the requested allowances. Incidentally, the memorandum speaks alternately of representation and entertainment. Since there are technical differences between the two, it is our feeling that what is desired here is purely an entertainment allowance which of course, if authorized, would be fully accountable.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON

OGC/LRH:kr

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